



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
Washington DC 20463

THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF ADMINISTRATIVE FINE CASE # 3021

DATE SCANNED 3/9/16

SCANNER NO. 2

SCAN OPERATOR 37



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
SEP 28 2015

2015 SEP 28 PM 4: 08

September 28, 2015

SENSITIVE

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Commission

THROUGH: Alec Palmer *AP*
Staff Director

FROM: Patricia C. Orrock *PCO*
Chief Compliance Officer

Debbie Chacona *DC*
Assistant Staff Director
Reports Analysis Division

BY: *KDR*
Kristin D. Roser/Marlene Colucci *M.C.*
Reports Analysis Division
Compliance Branch

SUBJECT: Reason To Believe Recommendation – 2015 Mid-Year Report for the
Administrative Fine Program

Attached is the name of a political committee and its treasurer who failed to file the 2015 Mid-Year Report in accordance with 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a). The 2015 Mid-Year Report was due on July 31, 2015.

The committee listed in the attached RTB Circulation Report failed to file the report. In accordance with the schedule of civil money penalties for reports at 11 CFR 111.43, this committee should be assessed the civil money penalty highlighted on the attached circulation report.

Recommendation

1. Find reason to believe that the political committee and its treasurer listed on the RTB Circulation Report violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and make a preliminary determination that the civil money penalty would be the amount indicated on the RTB Circulation Report.
2. Send the appropriate letter.

**Federal Election Commission
Reason to Believe Circulation Report
2015 MID-YEAR REPORT Not Election Sensitive 07/31/2015 UNAUTH**

AF#	Committee ID	Committee Name	Candidate Name	Treasurer	Threshold	PV	Receipt Date	Days Late	LOA	RTB Penalty
3021	C00568170	PRIORITIES FOR IOWA POLITICAL FUND		SARA CRAIG	\$622,829	1		Not Filed	\$622,829 (est)	\$13,750

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of)
)
Reason To Believe Recommendation -) AF 3021
2015 Mid-Year Report for the)
Administrative Fine Program: Priorities)
for Iowa Political Fund and Sara Craig,)
Treasurer)

CERTIFICATION

I, Shawn Woodhead Werth, Secretary and Clerk of the Federal Election Commission, do hereby certify that on September 30, 2015, the Commission decided by a vote of 6-0 to take the following actions in AF 3021:

1. Find reason to believe that Priorities for Iowa Political Fund and Sara Craig, Treasurer violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and make a preliminary determination that the civil money penalty would be in the amount of \$13,750.
2. Send the appropriate letter.

Commissioners Goodman, Hunter, Petersen, Ravel, Walther, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision.

Attest:

October 1, 2015
Date

Shawn Woodhead Werth
Shawn Woodhead Werth
Secretary and Clerk of the Commission



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

October 1, 2015

Sara Craig, in official capacity as Treasurer
Priorities for Iowa Political Fund
4019 Ingersoll Ave
Des Moines, IA 50312

C00568170
AF#: 3021

Dear Ms. Craig:

The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"), requires that your committee file a Mid-Year Report of Receipts and Disbursements in any calendar year other than one during which a regularly scheduled general election is held. This report, covering the period through June 30, 2015, shall be filed no later than July 31, 2015. 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a). Records at the Federal Election Commission ("FEC") indicate that this report was not filed within thirty (30) days of the due date. You should file this report if you have not already done so.

The Act permits the FEC to impose civil money penalties for violations of the reporting requirements of 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a). 52 U.S.C. § 30109g(a)(4). On September 30, 2015, the FEC found that there is reason to believe ("RTB") that Priorities for Iowa Political Fund and you, in your official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) by failing to file timely this report on or before July 31, 2015.

Based on the FEC's schedules of civil money penalties at 11 CFR § 111.43, the amount of your civil money penalty calculated at the RTB stage is \$13,750. Please see the attached copy of the Commission's administrative fine regulations at 11 CFR §§ 111.30-111.55. Attachment 1. The Commission's website contains further information about how the administrative fine program works and how the fines are calculated. See <http://www.fec.gov/af/af.shtml>. 11 CFR § 111.34. Your payment of \$13,750 is due within forty (40) days of the finding, or by November 09, 2015, and is based on these factors:

Sensitivity of Report: Not Election Sensitive
Level of Activity: \$622,829
Number of Days Late: Not Filed
Number of Previous Civil Money Penalties Assessed: 1

At this juncture, the following courses of action are available to you:

1. If You Choose to Challenge the RTB Finding and/or Civil Money Penalty

If you should decide to challenge the RTB finding and/or calculated civil money penalty, you must submit a written response to the FEC's Office of Administrative Review, 999 E Street,

NW, Washington, DC 20463. Your response must include the AF# (found at the top of page 1 under your committee's identification number) and be received within forty (40) days of the Commission's RTB finding, or November 09, 2015. 11 CFR § 111.35(a). Your written response must include the reason(s) why you are challenging the RTB finding and/or calculated civil money penalty, and must include the factual basis supporting the reason(s) and supporting documentation. The FEC strongly encourages that documents be submitted in the form of affidavits or declarations. 11 CFR § 111.36(c).

The FEC will only consider challenges that are based on at least one of three grounds: (1) a factual error in the RTB finding; (2) miscalculation of the calculated civil money penalty by the FEC; or (3) your demonstrated use of best efforts to file in a timely manner when prevented from doing so by reasonably unforeseen circumstances that were beyond your control. 11 CFR § 111.35(b). In order for a challenge to be considered on the basis of best efforts, you must have filed the required report no later than 24 hours after the end of these reasonably unforeseen circumstances. *Id.* Examples of circumstances that will be considered reasonably unforeseen and beyond your control include, but are not limited to: (1) a failure of Commission computers or Commission-provided software despite your seeking technical assistance from Commission personnel and resources; (2) a widespread disruption of information transmissions over the Internet that is not caused by a failure of the Commission's or your computer systems or Internet service provider; and (3) severe weather or other disaster-related incident. 11 CFR § 111.35(c). Examples of circumstances that will not be considered reasonably unforeseen and beyond your control include, but are not limited to: (1) negligence; (2) delays caused by vendors or contractors; (3) treasurer and staff illness, inexperience or unavailability; (4) committee computer, software, or Internet service provider failures; (5) failure to know filing dates; and (6) failure to use filing software properly. 11 CFR § 111.35(d).

The "failure to raise an argument in a timely fashion during the administrative process shall be deemed a waiver" of your right to present such argument in a petition to the U.S. District Court under 52 U.S.C. § 30109. 11 CFR § 111.38.

If you intend to be represented by counsel, please advise the Office of Administrative Review. You should provide, in writing, the name, address and telephone number of your counsel and authorize counsel to receive notifications and communications relating to this challenge and imposition of the calculated civil money penalty.

2. If You Choose Not to Pay the Civil Money Penalty and Not to Submit a Challenge

If you do not pay the calculated civil money penalty and do not submit a written response, the FEC will assume that the preceding factual allegations are true and make a final determination that Priorities for Iowa Political Fund and you, in your official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess a civil money penalty.

Unpaid civil money penalties assessed through the Administrative Fine regulations will be subject to the Debt Collection Act of 1982 ("DCA"), as amended by the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, 31 U.S.C. § 3701 *et seq.* The FEC may take any and all appropriate action authorized and required by the DCA, as amended, including transfer to the U.S. Department of the Treasury for collection. 11 CFR § 111.51(a)(2).

3. If You Choose to Pay the Civil Money Penalty

If you should decide to pay the calculated civil money penalty, send the enclosed remittance form, along with your payment, to the FEC at the address on page 4. Upon receipt of your payment, the FEC will send you a final determination letter.

NOTICE REGARDING PARTIAL PAYMENTS AND SETTLEMENT OFFERS

4. Partial Payments

If you make a payment in an amount less than the calculated civil money penalty, the amount of your partial payment will be credited towards the full civil money penalty that the Commission assesses upon making a final determination.

5. Settlement Offers

Any offer to settle or compromise a debt owed to the Commission, including making a payment in an amount less than the calculated civil money penalty assessed or any restrictive endorsements contained on your check or money order or proposed in correspondence transmitted with your check or money order, will be rejected. Acceptance and deposit or cashing of such a restricted payment does not constitute acceptance of the settlement offer. Payments containing restrictive endorsements will be deposited and treated as a partial payment towards the civil money penalty that the Commission assesses upon making a final determination. All unpaid civil money penalty amounts remaining will be subject to the debt collection procedures set forth in Section 2, above.

This matter was generated based on information ascertained by the FEC in the normal course of carrying out its supervisory responsibilities. 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(2). Unless you notify the FEC in writing that you wish the matter to be made public, it will remain confidential in accordance with 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(4)(B) and 30109(a)(12)(A) until it is placed on the public record at the conclusion of this matter in accordance with 11 CFR § 111.42.

As noted earlier, you may obtain additional information on the FEC's administrative fine program, including the final regulations, on the FEC's website at <http://www.fec.gov/af/af.shtml>. If you have questions regarding the payment of the calculated civil money penalty, please contact Marlene Colucci in the Reports Analysis Division at our toll free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 5) or (202) 694-1130. If you have questions regarding the submission of a challenge, please contact the Office of Administrative Review at our toll free number (800) 424-9530 (press 0, then ext. 1660) or (202) 694-1660.

On behalf of the Commission,



Ann M. Ravel
Chair

ADMINISTRATIVE FINE REMITTANCE & PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS

In accordance with the schedule of penalties at 11 CFR § 111.43, the amount of your civil money penalty calculated at RTB is \$13,750 for the 2015 Mid-Year Report Report.

Please mail this remittance with a check or money order made payable to the Federal Election Commission to the following address:

Federal Election Commission
P.O. Box 979058
St. Louis, MO 63197-9000

If you choose to send your remittance and payment by courier or overnight delivery, please use this address:

U.S. Bank - Government Lockbox
FEC #979058
1005 Convention Plaza
Attn: Government Lockbox, SL-MO-C2GL
St. Louis, MO 63101

The remittance and your payment are due by November 09, 2015. Upon receipt of your remittance and payment, the FEC will send you a final determination letter.

PAYMENTS BY PERSONAL CHECK

Personal checks will be converted into electronic funds transfers (EFTS). Your account will be electronically debited for the amount on your check, usually within 24 hours, and the debit will appear on your regular statement. We will destroy your original check and keep a copy of it. In case the EFT cannot be processed for technical reasons, you authorize us to process the copy in lieu of the original check. Should the EFT not be completed because of insufficient funds, we may try to make the transfer twice.

PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN THE PORTION BELOW WITH YOUR PAYMENT

FOR: Priorities for Iowa Political Fund

FEC ID#: C00568170

AF#: 3021

PAYMENT DUE DATE: November 09, 2015

PAYMENT AMOUNT DUE: \$13,750



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

2016 FEB -1 AM 10:08

February 1, 2016

MEMORANDUM

SENSITIVE

TO: The Commission

THROUGH: Alec Palmer *WHP*
Staff Director

FROM: Patricia C. Orrock *PCO*
Chief Compliance Officer

Debbie Chacona *DC*
Assistant Staff Director
Reports Analysis Division
KDR

BY: Kristin D. Roser/Ben Holly *B.H.*
Reports Analysis Division
Compliance Branch

SUBJECT: Administrative Fine Program – Final Determination Recommendation for the
2015 Mid-Year Report

Attached is a list identifying a political committee and its treasurer against which the Commission has found reason to believe (RTB) and assessed a proposed civil money penalty calculated at RTB for failure to file the 2015 Mid-Year Report. The committee has not paid the civil money penalty requested at RTB and has been given at least forty (40) days from the date of the Commission's RTB finding to remit payment.

In accordance with 11 CFR § 111.40, the Commission shall send a final determination notice to the respondent that has not paid the civil money penalty.

RAD Recommendation

- (1) Make a final determination that the political committee and its treasurer, in her official capacity, listed on the attached report violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess the final civil money penalty so indicated.

(2) Send the appropriate letter.

1-800-4-A-6000

Federal Election Commission
FD Circulation Report Fine Not Paid
2015 MID-YEAR REPORT Not Election Sensitive 07/31/2015 UNAUTH

AF#	Committee Name	Candidate Name	Committee ID	Treasurer	Receipt Date	Days Late	LOA	PV	RTB Date	RTB Penalty	Days Since RTB	FD Penalty
3021	PRIORITIES FOR IOWA POLITICAL FUND		C00568170	SARA CRAIG		Not Filed	\$622,829 (est)	1	09/30/2015	\$13,750	124	\$13,750

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of)
)
Administrative Fine Program - Final) AF 3021
Determination Recommendation for the)
Mid-Year Report: PRIORITIES FOR)
IOWA POLITICAL FUND, and SARA)
CRAIG as treasurer)
)

CERTIFICATION

I, Shawn Woodhead Werth, Secretary and Clerk of the Federal Election Commission, do hereby certify that on February 09, 2016, the Commission took the following actions on the Administrative Fine Program – Final Determination Recommendation for the Mid-Year Report as recommended in the Reports Analysis Division's Memorandum dated February 02, 2016, on the following committee:

AF#3021 Decided by a vote of 6-0 to: (1) make a final determination that PRIORITIES FOR IOWA POLITICAL FUND, and SARA CRAIG in her official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assess the final civil money penalty so indicated. (2) send the appropriate letter.

Commissioners Goodman, Hunter, Petersen, Ravel, Walther, and Weintraub voted affirmatively for the decision.

Attest:

February 10, 2016
Date

Shawn Woodhead Werth
Shawn Woodhead Werth
Secretary and Clerk of the Commission



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

February 10, 2016

Sara Craig, in official capacity as Treasurer
Priorities for Iowa Political Fund
4019 Ingersoll Ave
Des Moines, IA 50312

C00568170
AF#: 3021

Dear Ms. Craig:

On September 30, 2015, the Federal Election Commission ("the Commission") found reason to believe ("RTB") that Priorities for Iowa Political Fund and you, in your official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) for failing to file or timely file the 2015 Mid-Year Report. By letter dated October 1, 2015, the Commission notified you of the RTB finding and the preliminary civil money penalty calculated at the RTB stage to be \$13,750 in accordance with the schedule of penalties at 11 CFR § 111.43. Within forty (40) days of the FEC's RTB finding, you were required to either transmit payment of the calculated civil money penalty or submit a written response challenging either the RTB finding or the calculated civil money penalty.

The FEC did not receive payment of the calculated civil money penalty or a written response within the time permitted. Since that time, the amount of the civil money penalty has been changed to reflect the actual level of activity of the 2015 Mid-Year Report. The FEC made a final determination on February 10, 2016 that Priorities for Iowa Political Fund and you, in your official capacity as treasurer, violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104(a) and assessed a civil money penalty in the amount of \$343 in accordance with 11 CFR § 111.43. The civil money penalty is based on these factors:

Election Sensitivity of Report: Not Election Sensitive

Level of Activity: \$4,100

Number of Days Late: Not Filed (reports not filed within thirty (30) days of the due date are considered not filed for the purposes of calculating the penalty)

Number of Previous Civil Money Penalties Assessed: 1

At this juncture, the following courses of action are available to you:

1. If You Choose to Appeal the Final Determination and/or Civil Money Penalty

If you choose to appeal the final determination, you should submit a written petition, within thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter, to the U.S. District Court for the district in which the committee or you reside, or transact business, requesting that the final determination be modified or set aside. See 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(4)(C)(iii). Your failure to raise an argument in a timely fashion during the administrative process shall be deemed a waiver of the respondents' right to present such argument in a petition to the district court under 52 U.S.C. § 30109. 11 CFR § 111.38.

2. If You Choose Not to Pay the Civil Money Penalty and Not to Appeal

Unpaid civil money penalties assessed through the Administrative Fine regulations will be subject to the Debt Collection Act of 1982 ("DCA") as amended by the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 ("DCIA"), 31 U.S.C. § 3701 *et seq.* If you do not pay this debt within thirty (30) days (or file a written petition to a federal district court - see below), the Commission will transfer the debt to the U.S. Department of the Treasury ("Treasury") for collection. Within five (5) days of the transfer to Treasury, Treasury will contact you to request payment. Treasury currently charges a fee of 28% of the civil money penalty amount for its collection services. The fee will be added to the amount of the civil money penalty that you owe. Should Treasury's attempts fail, Treasury will refer the debt to a private collection agency ("PCA"). If the debt remains unpaid, Treasury may recommend that the Commission refer the matter to the Department of Justice for litigation.

Actions which may be taken to enforce recovery of a delinquent debt by Treasury may also include: (1) offset of any payments, which the debtor is due, including tax refunds and salary; (2) referral of the debt to agency counsel for litigation; (3) reporting of the debt to a credit bureau; (4) administrative wage garnishment; and (5) reporting of the debt, if discharged, to the IRS as potential taxable income. In addition, under the provisions of DCIA and other statutes applicable to the FEC, the debtor may be subject to the assessment of other statutory interest, penalties, and administrative costs.

In accordance with the DCIA, at your request, the agency will offer you the opportunity to inspect and copy records relating to the debt, the opportunity for a review of the debt, and the opportunity to enter into a written repayment agreement.

3. If You Choose to Pay the Civil Money Penalty

If you should decide to pay the civil money penalty, follow the payment instructions on page 4 of this letter. You should make payment within thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter.

NOTICE REGARDING PARTIAL PAYMENTS AND SETTLEMENT OFFERS

4. Partial Payments

If you make a payment in an amount less than the civil money penalty, the amount of your partial payment will be credited towards the full civil money penalty that the Commission assessed upon making a final determination.

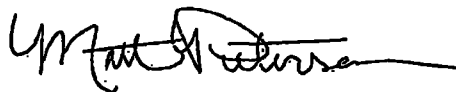
5. Settlement Offers

Any offer to settle or compromise a debt owed to the Commission, including a payment in an amount less than the civil money penalty assessed or any restrictive endorsements contained on your check or money order or proposed in correspondence transmitted with your check or money order, will be rejected. Acceptance and deposit or cashing of such a restricted payment does not constitute acceptance of the settlement offer. Payments containing restrictive endorsements will be deposited and treated as a partial payment towards the civil money penalty that the Commission assessed upon making a final determination. All unpaid civil money penalty amounts remaining will be subject to the debt collection procedures set forth in Section 2, above.

The confidentiality provisions at 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(12) no longer apply and this matter is now public. Pursuant to 11 CFR §§ 111.42(b) and 111.20(c), the file will be placed on the public record within thirty (30) days from the date of this notification.

If you have any questions regarding the payment of the civil money penalty, please contact Ben Holly at Federal Election Commission, 999 E St., NW, Washington, DC 20463, or our toll free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt, press 5) or (202) 694-1130.

On behalf of the Commission,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew S. Petersen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matthew S. Petersen
Chair

ADMINISTRATIVE FINE PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS

In accordance with the schedule of penalties at 11 CFR § 111.43, the civil money penalty is \$343 for the 2015 Mid-Year Report. The payment is due within 30 days of receipt of this letter.

You may remit payment by ACH withdrawal from your bank account, or by debit or credit card through Pay.gov, the federal government's secure portal for online collections. Visit www.fec.gov/af/pay.shtml to be directed to Pay.gov's Administrative Fine Program Payment form.

This penalty may also be paid by check or money order made payable to the Federal Election Commission. It should be sent by mail to:

Federal Election Commission
PO Box 979058
St. Louis, MO 63197-9000

If you choose to send your payment by courier or overnight delivery, please send to:

U.S. Bank - Government Lockbox
FEC #979058
1005 Convention Plaza
Attn: Government Lockbox, SL-MO-C2GL
St. Louis, MO 63101

PAYMENTS BY PERSONAL CHECK

Personal checks will be converted into electronic funds transfers (EFTs). Your account will be electronically debited for the amount on the check, usually within 24 hours, and the debit will appear on your regular statement. We will destroy your original check and keep a copy of it. In case the EFT cannot be processed for technical reasons, you authorize us to process the copy in lieu of the original check. Should the EFT not be completed because of insufficient funds, we may try to make the transfer twice.

PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN THE PORTION BELOW WITH YOUR PAYMENT

FOR: Priorities for Iowa Political Fund

FEC ID#: C00568170

AF#: 3021

PAYMENT AMOUNT DUE: \$343



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
Washington DC 20463

THIS IS THE END OF ADMINISTRATIVE FINE CASE # 3021

DATE SCANNED 3/9/16

SCANNER NO. 2

SCAN OPERATOR BY